

Minutes of Secretary (TW) vide para 114/n may kindly be seen one letter written to Hon'ble LG by M.P. is placed in file may also be kindly seen at page 136/C.

In the meantime another letter to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands submitted by the Karen Youth Organization vide PUC regarding inclusion of Karen Community in the list of ST also received.

In this connection, it is to state that the Karen Youth Organization had represented earlier to the Govt. of India for inclusion of the Karen Community in the list of Scheduled Tribes, A & N Islands and in reply to their representation, the Govt. of India had informed that their proposal was being considered as per the criteria laid down in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the list of Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes and any amendment in the existing list of SCs and STs could be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of article 341 (2) and 342 (2) of the constitution. But the Govt. of India do not appear to have issued any revised list of STs so far as it relates Karens.

In the meantime the Karens have opted for OBC status and the Commission considering their social educational and economic backwardness have recommended for declaring them as OBC along with other Committees in respect of A & N Islands. The report is being examined by the Administration.

The Karens were more developed than even the Nicobaris, let alone the other five primitive Tribals and the Karens already are getting preferences in recruitment of Group 'C' and 'D' posts under the Administration along with other locals. So classifying them as a ST in respect of this UT would be detrimental to the interests of the STs of this UT. Therefore, the Administration did not recommend classification of Karens as ST earlier. The same view is still held by the Administration so far as according ST status to Karens is concerned as the aboriginal tribes of this UT are much backward when compared to Karens. More over, the Karens are not original inhabitants of this UT unlike the six STs and they were brought to this UT by the British Colonial Administration to work as labourers in the Forest during 1925-26 and subsequently they settled.

It is also to mention that aboriginal tribes of this UT and still backward when compared of the Karens. Therefore there can be no change in the stand taken by the Administration earlier with regard to inclusion of the Karens in the list of STs. Moreover the Karens have been recommended for OBC status by the OBC Commission.

Submitted for kind perusal and approval please. *Late submission is regretted pl.*

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Director (TW)

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4/18/11